

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241902

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI ID

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE (CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL)

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCPAC INFO SECDEF DA SECSTATE DTD
240827Z SEP 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMDIS NOFORN // DLGOO//

PASS TO: CINCPAC FOR J47 AND POLAD; SECDEF FOR ASD/DSAA

ISA (EA&PR); DA FOR DAMO.

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE (CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL)(C)

1. (C) DLG HAS HAD AN INFORMAL APPROACH FROM AN INDONESIAN
ARMY SOURCE ASKING WHETHER, IF FORMALLY ASKED, USDLG COULD
PROVIDE PLANNING INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN DISPOSAL OF A
QUANTITY OF CHEMICAL AGENT. USDLG DOES NOT POSSESS THE EXPERTISE
REQUIRED TO ANALYZE THE INDONESIAN'S SPECIFIC PROBLEM,
NOR TO RECOMMEND TO THEM SPECIFIC EQUIP AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR
THE TASK.

2. (C) IT IS REPORTED THAT THE INDONESIAN ARMY (TNI-AD) HAS
RECENTLY DISCOVERED A CACHE OF CHEMICAL AGENT AT A TRAINING
BASE IN A POPULATED AREA NEAR BANDUNG WHICH WAS MANUFACTURED
BY THE DUTCH AND LEFT BEHIND WHEN INDONESIA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE.
THE AGENT HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED BY TNI-AD AS A MUSTARD

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GAS AGENT (EITHER HD, HN-2, OR L TYPE). IT HAS BEEN STORED

(SINCE ABOUT 1937) IN FIVE STEEL TANKS LOCATED IN FIVE SEPARATE CONCRETE UNDERGROUND BUNKERS. A TOTAL OF APPROX FIVE CUBIC METERS (5 TONS) OF TOXIC MATERIAL IS INVOLVED. THE TANKS IN THE TWO BUNKERS WHICH HAVE BEEN OPENED HAVE SERIOUSLY CORRODED AND THE CHEMICAL AGENT IS SLOWLY ESCAPING.

3. (C) TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE THIS SERIOUS HAZARD, THE INDONESIAN ARMY HAS TENTATIVELY PLANNED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM:

A. POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE CHEMICAL AGENT.

B. MONITOR THE STORAGE AREAS AND RECORD THE AMOUNT AND RATE OF LEAKAGE.

C. TRANSFER THE CHEMICAL AGENT FROM ITS PRESENT CONTAINERS AND LOCATION INTO NEW, SAFE CONTAINERS LOCATED IN A MORE REMOTE AREA.

D. ULTIMATELY DESTROY OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF THE CHEMICAL AGENT IN A SAFE, APPROVED MANNER.

E. PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PROTECTION (MASKS, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, ETC.) FOR INDONESIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THIS DISPOSAL PROJECT.

F. BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT SHOULD INDONESIAN PERSONNEL BE EXPOSED TO THE AGENT, OR, SHOULD THE SITUATION

WORSEN, TO LOCAL CIVILIAN RESIDENTS INADVERTENTLY EXPOSED TO THE CHEMICAL.

4. (C) THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED TO BE PROVIDED CHIEF, USDLG:

A. REQUEST THAT DARCOM RESEARCH THIS MATTER AND PROVIDE A LISTING OF RECOMMENDED ITEMS OF EQUIP AND/OR MATERIALS REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROGRAM OUTLINED IN PARA 2, ABOVE. FURTHER REQUEST THAT PLANNING PRICE AND AVAILABILITY BE PROVIDED FOR THE RECOMMENDED ITEMS.

B. REQUEST THAT TRADOC RESEARCH THIS MATTER AND ADVISE THIS HQ AS TO RECOMMENDED METHODS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES TO BE EMPLOYED BY TNI-AD IN THIS DISPOSAL PROGRAM. FURTHER REQUEST THAT USDLG BE ADVISED AS TO POSSIBILITY AND/OR ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING A US ARMY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM TO ASSIST TNI-AD IN THE PLANNING AND/OR EXECUTION OF THEIR DISPOSAL PROGRAM. ESTIMATED COSTS OF SUCH A TAT VISIT ARE ALSO REQUESTED.

5. (C) THIS ENTIRE MATTER IS OF AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE NATURE TO THE INDONESIANS. NO DISCLOSURE OF THIS REQUEST (OR OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROBLEM) OTHER THAN THAT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, SHOULD BE MADE.
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DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER WITH THE INDONESIAN GOVT SHOULD BE SOLELY VIA USDLG AND/OR US EMBASSY JAKARTA.

6. (C) IT IS BEING SUGGESTED TO THE INDONESIAN MILITARY THAT DUTCH AUHTORITIES SHOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED IN THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT BETTER TO ASCERTAIN THE EXACT NATURE OF THE SUSPECTED GAS.

7. (C) THE EMBASSY IS SUBMITTING SEPARATELY A MESSAGE TO THE DEPT OF STATE REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RESPONSE IF AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED FROM THE GOI.

8. (U) THE US AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE. GDS-82.
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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